

PUBLIC MEDIA RELEASE

School or School District today announced its policy for free and reduced price meals for children served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. Local school officials have adopted the following household size and income criteria for determining eligibility:

Household Size and Income Guidelines for Free Meals or Reduced Price Meals Effective July 1, 2004 Through June 30, 2005

(1) Income Guidelines for Free Meals				(2) Income Guidelines for Reduced Price Meals			
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly	Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
(1)	12,103	1,009	233	(1)	12,104 – 17,224	1,010 – 1,436	234 - 332
(2)	16,237	1,354	313	(2)	16,238 – 23,107	1,355 - 1,926	314 - 445
(3)	20,371	1,698	392	(3)	20,372 – 28,990	1,699 - 2,416	393 - 558
(4)	24,505	2,043	472	(4)	24,506 – 34,873	2,044 - 2,907	473 - 671
(5)	28,639	2,387	551	(5)	28,640 – 40,756	2,388 - 3,397	552 - 784
(6)	32,773	2,732	631	(6)	32,774 – 46,639	2,733 - 3,887	632 - 897
(7)	36,907	3,076	710	(7)	36,908 – 52,522	3,077 - 4,377	711 - 1,011
(8)	41,041	3,421	790	(8)	41,042 – 58,405	3,422 - 4,868	791 - 1,124
For each Additional Family Member	+4,134	+345	+80		+5,883	+491	+114

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown may be eligible for free or reduced price meals.

For school officials to determine eligibility the household must provide the following information on the application: (1) A food stamp or TANF case number certifying the household is currently eligible for either of these assistance programs and an adult household member signature or (2) names of all household members, the name and social security number of the adult household member signing the application form, monthly income by source for each household member and a signature of an adult household member certifying that the information provided is correct.

Households receiving free or reduced price benefits must notify school officials during the school year of any decreases in household size and any increases in income of over \$50 per month or \$600 per year. Households must also notify officials of any termination of benefits for children under the Food Stamp or TANF Programs.

Foster children may also be eligible for these benefits regardless of household income. If a household has foster children living with them and wish to apply for such meals for them, they may do so by completing a separate application form.

Under the provisions of the policy _____ will review applications and determine
(position/title of reviewing official)
eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the reviewing official may wish to discuss the decision with the reviewer on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal may make a request either orally or in writing to _____ whose address is _____
(Name of District Superintendent or SFA official)
_____ for a hearing to appeal the decision. The hearing procedures are outlined in the policy.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if household size changes, the household should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for free or reduced price meals if the household income falls at or below the levels shown above.

A complete copy of the policy is on file in each school and in the office of the District Superintendent where any interested party may review it.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal law and U. S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to *USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410* or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

This release was sent to the following newspapers: _____